Proposal for Model Prison Act and Standardisation of Jail Manual

*252. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare any Model Prison Act as the existing Act has become very old for adoption by the State Governments in view of the changed circumstances;

(b) whether Government also propose to standardise the Jail Manual in order to bring uniformity as the present Jail Manual differs from State to State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in both the above cases?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Although 'Prisons' is a State subject under the Constitution, an interaction has been undertaken with the State Governments with a view to consulting them on the lines on which the law/manuals relating to Prison Administration may be modified.

Private Sector Participation in National Waterways

*253. SHRI ANANTRAM JAISWAL: SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of national waterways which are proposed to be used for river transport;

(b) whether private sector will be involved in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details in regard to inviting tenders on Build-Operate-and-Transfer basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) The Government of India have declared the following three Waterways as National Waterways to be used for river transport:

(i) The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 kms.) as National Waterway No. 1.

(ii) The Brahmaputra between Bangladesh Border to Sadiya (891 kms.) as National Waterway No. 2 and

(iii) The West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram (168 kms.) alongwith Udyogmandal Canal (23 kms.) and Champakara Canal (14 kms.) as National Waterway No. 3.

(b) Private sector involvement is being explored by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in the following areas:

(i) Operation of cargo vessels.

(ii) Construction and maintenance of Terminals.

(iii) Provision and operation of cargo handling facilities.

(iv) Dredging, and

(v) Provision of navigational aids.

(c) The IWAI has formulated a Scheme of Privatisation in the IWT sector, including procedural details for private sector participation, which is required to be approved by the Government after due consideration.

Agreement with Foreign Countries

*254. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agreements which have been signed with the foreign countries during the recent visit of the Prime Minister; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB

MUKHERJEE): (a) Twelve agreements were signed during the visits of the Prime Minister.

(b) The details are as per statement enclosed.

Statement

MALAYSIA

1. Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment—to create favourable conditions for investment in each other's country and to protect investment.

2. Agreement for provision of Technical Training and Consultancy Services—to provide technical training and technical consultancy service to Malaysia in the field of space science, particularly satellite programmers, as well as to assist overall development of Malaysia's Space Science Programme.

TURKMENISTAN

3. Agreement to extend a second credit line of US $ 10 million—provides for extension of credit to Turkmenistan Government.

4. Agreement on establishment of Joint Commission—defines the scope of its functioning and the frequency of its sessions for trade, economic, scienific and technological cooperation.

5. Agreement on bilateral investment protection—secures investment in both countries against nationalisation or expropriation in any manner except for a public purpose, in accordance with law, on a non-discriminatory basis and against fair and equitable compensation.

KYRGHYZSTAN

6. Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism—aims to promote tourism between the two countries through cooperation between firms and organisations, dissemination of tourism related information, exploration of possibilities for construction and management of hotels and training of personnel.

7. Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation—aims at promoting cooperation in this sector including sharing of experience of scientists and other specialists and includes holding of seminars as well as joint programmes and joint ventures.

EXYPT

8. Agreement on Cooperation in Scince and Technology—includes implementation of joint research and development projects, organisation of and participation in scientific conferences, workshops, exhibitions, mutual use of research and development facilities and scientific equipment, organisation of joint scientific meetings.

9. Agreement of Combating of forms of criminal acts, particularly terrorits, transnational and organised crimes will enable both countries to exchange information, experiences and techniques in combating these crimes.

10. Agreement on cooperation in the sphere of information—is designed to encourage dissemination of news and information of each other's country among their citizens through press, news

agencies and other information media. Implementation of this agreement is expected to take several forms including exchange of information, scientific research books, exchange of press reporters and photographers, experts and trainees and publicity material.

BURKINA FASO

11. A trade agreement was signed during the visit.

ACCRA

12. Text of an agreement on settingup a Joint Commission with Ghana was initialled.

More Outlets for Petroleum Products in Delhi

*255. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open more retail outlets for petrol, diesel and LPG under IOC in Delhi during the last month of the current year and the first quarter of the next year;

(b) whether Government have identified the sites for that purpose;

(c) whether some reservation on allotment of such outlets has since been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Letters of Intent have been issued by IOC as well as other oil marketing companies for opening of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG distributorships in Delhi. Commissioning of these dealerships/distributorships depends on the allotment of suitable land by the Delhi Development Authority.

(c) and (d) The existing policy provides for reservation in the allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products for different sections of the society as under: SC/ST - 25%, Defence - 7 1/2% Physically Handicapped - 7 1/2%, Freedom Fighter - 3%, Outstanding Sportsperson -2%, Open -55%.

Dismantling Oil Selection Boards

*256. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Selection Boards will be dismantled after introduction of a market determined pricing policy for petrol, diesel and allied products;

(b) if so, whether petrol and diesel outlets would be allotted on a competitive and commercial basis; and

(c) if so, the details of schedule for introduction of a new system of allotting retail petroleum and diesel outlets in a market determined petroleum sector? -

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) The system of selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products through selection Boards will continue so long as the situation demands. The timings for introduction of market determined prices is not certain.

(b) Even now, the normal selections are being made through the process of advertisement and interview of the applicants by a duly constituted Oil Selection Board, on competitive basis.

(c) There is no proposal at present to introduce a new system of alloting dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products.

Rural Telephone Package

*257. SHRI SANATAN BISI:
SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently announced "Rural Telephone Package"; and